

Message Text

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, EAID, AORG, WFC

SUBJECT: ECOSOC 61ST SESSION - ITEM 17A - FOOD PROBLEMS

REF: GENEVA 5893 AND 5874

1. ROME 11536 BEING REPEATED GENEVA WILL BE HELPFUL
ON WFC FUNDING ISSUE AS ALSO WILL BE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS
FROM REPORT OF 69TH FAO COUNCIL:

A. "THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF
1976 THE PRESENT SUBSIDY AT THE RATE OF DOLS 600,000
PER BIENNIUM. FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1977 ONWARDS IT
REQUESTED THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO COMMUNICATE TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS THE PROPOSAL OF
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THE COUNCIL THAT FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL BE ASSUMED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. THE COUNCIL HEARD WITH APPRECIATION A STATEMENT FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL, BUT THAT FINAL DECISIONS WOULD DEPEND ON THE ACABQ, THE FIFTH COMMITTEE AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHOULD HAVE

FULL FLEXIBILITY TO WORK OUT WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THE STAGES BY WHICH THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND REQUESTED HIM TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AT ITS NOVEMBER 1976 SESSION ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED."

B. "WITH REGARD TO THE SUBSTANTIVE SERVICING WHICH FAO WOULD PROVIDE TO THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, SUPPORTED BY THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, THAT DOLS 150,000 COULD BE ADDED TO THE CONTINGENCIES PROVISION IN CHAPTER 8 OF THE 1976-77 PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET."

C. "THE COUNCIL FELT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL AT THE PRESENT STAGE TO SEEK A HARD AND FAST DEMARCATION OF FUNCTIONS BETWEEN THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ON THE ONE HAND AND THE FAO COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES ON THE OTHER HAND. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WERE LAID DOWN IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION XXII. THE COUNCIL FELT THAT COMPLEMENTARITY OF ACTION BETWEEN THE WFC AND FAO COULD FOR THE MOMENT BEST BE PROMOTED BY CLOSE CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION AT SECRETARIAT LEVEL." USDEL MAY SUPPORT ABOVE CONCLUSIONS.

2. WITH REGARD ROLE AND ACTIVITIES TO DATE, POSITION PAPER FOR ECOSOC ITEM 17-A IS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ECOSOC TO ATTEMPT ANY DETAILED DEBATE ON THE WFC REPORT, PARTICULARLY ON THE G-77 RESOLUTIONS WHICH WERE NOT DISCUSSED PER SE IN THE JUNE COUNCIL SESSION.

3. SHOULD THE LACK OF ANY REAL WFC ACCOMPLISHMENT BE RAISED, THE DELEGATION MAY NOTE THAT WHILE THIS IS TRUE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REASONS FOR IT ARE VARIED. THE COUNCIL CAN BE SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF ALL WFC MEMBERS SERIOUSLY SEEK TO HELP IT ACHIEVE ITS PURPOSE. PERFORMANCE FROM THE SECRETARIAT MORE CONSISTENT WITH THE COUNCIL'S PURPOSE ALSO WILL BE REQUIRED.

4. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A KEY FUNCTION OF THE COUNCIL, IN A VERY REAL SENSE, IS TO EXTEND HIGH LEVEL

OVERSIGHT TO IMPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND TO IDENTIFY GAPS AND
DEFICIENCIES WHERE APPROPRIATE. WE AGREE THAT IT SHOULD
BE A COORDINATING MECHANISM TO PROVIDE OVERALL, INTE-
GRATED AND CONTINUING ATTENTION TO FOOD AND NUTRITION
POLICIES AND PROBLEMS BY ALL AGENCIES OF THE UN SYSTEM. ROBINSON

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